

Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) recently announced Julia Talamonti of Manhattan, IL. as the new Veterans Liaison and Will County Regional Director for the 11th Congressional District Office. Talamonti comes to the office from the United States Air Force, where she served for six years - and as staff sergeant for the last two years. She has a bachelor's degree from Campbell University, and two associate degrees. Currently, Talamonti is in the Urban Planning and Public Policy master's program at the University of Illinois - Chicago. She also worked at the Veterans' Affairs office while at the university.

"As many of my constituents have learned, I am passionate about our sons and daughters in the military, and our veterans," said Halvorson. "After listening to veterans in the 11th District, I felt it was important to have a veteran expert on staff. We are thrilled to have Juila in that role - and are doubly pleased that she is a veteran."

Talamonti's role is two-fold. As regional director, she's serving as the Will County contact for Congressional issues in the district. As veteran's liaison, she will be accessible for veterans issues and casework - and says she looks forward to the new role and the partnerships in the community.

The only Illinois representative on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, since taking office this year, Halvorson also has established a Veterans Advisory Committee for the district, spent time in Afghanistan learning about the military medical care system, introduced legislation for disabled veterans and supported the new Post-911 GI Bill. She has also led the charge to convert the soon-to-be vacant Joliet campus of Silver Cross Hospital into a veterans' facility.